

John D. Schleicher Care of Creation Grants

In response to the resolution on responding to the climate emergency adopted at the North/West Lower Michigan Synod's 2021 Synod Assembly, Bishop Craig Alan Satterlee establishes the John D. Schleicher Care of Creation Grants. These grants are established using funds given by Calvary, Lansing to be used at the Synod's discretion.

The purpose of the John D. Schleicher Care of Creation Grants is to inspire and assist congregations (or a group of congregations) of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod to respond to climate change as a matter of faith and discipleship. The grants are named to honor Bishop Emeritus John D. Schleicher for his commitment to and leadership in care of creation.

Three (3) one-time grants of \$750 will be awarded to congregations who initiate a project that responds to care of creation, earth-keeping ministry, or climate change.

Congregations must design a project and plan of implementation that responds to care of creation, earth-keeping ministry, or climate change as part of the life and mission of Jesus and equips the congregation to fulfill their calling, as followers of Jesus, to be wise, engaged, and faithful citizens. Education, conservation, and/or advocacy are appropriate foci for the project. The Synod's Environmental Stewardship Task Force is available for consultation and coaching.

To apply for a John D. Schleicher Care of Creation Grant, congregations must:

- Be current with yearly parochial and pastors reports with the ELCA
- Be working toward or beyond 10% mission support
- Consult with the Bishop or DEM throughout the process

In addition, congregations must submit:

- A project proposal
 - A successful project proposal includes:
 - A description of the project: What do you intend to do?
 - Theological rationale: How is this an expression of and participation in the saving work of Jesus Christ? How will you communicate this as part of the project?
 - How does this project address the issue of climate change, care of creation, or earth-keeping?
 - How are you going to implement this project? Include a timeline.

- How will you use the \$750?
- How will you know if the project has been successful?
- A completed grant application
 - Grant Applications are available at:
<https://mittensynod.org/docs/MissionOutreachGrantApplication.pdf>
- A proposed budget

Congregations considering undertaking a project and applying for a John D. Schleicher Care of Creation Grant should take time for missional listening:

- Listening to God through bible study, prayer, and personal devotion
- Listening to each other in the congregation
- Listening to the community

Congregations might also consider using the 90-Day Micro Strategy Resource Guide and Map as a planning tool:

- 90-Day Micro Strategy Guide: <https://mittensynod.org/docs/REVIVE90Day.pdf>
- 90-Day Map: <https://mittensynod.org/docs/REVIVE90DayPlan.pdf>

John D. Schleicher Care of Creation Grants are one-time gifts of \$750 with a report due six months after the grant is received.

Grant applications and required documents must be submitted to Bishop Craig Alan Satterlee at bishopcraigsatterlee@mittensynod.org by May 1, 2022.